

Message Text

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R 271125Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7506
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MADRID

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USEEC

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TAGS: EP, EEC, PINT, PEPR
SUBJ: EUROPEAN SOCIALIST LEADERS ADOPT POLITICAL
DECLARATION FOR NEXT YEAR'S DIRECT ELECTION
OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

REF: BONN 11479

1. SUMMARY: AT JUNE 23-24 MEETING IN BRUSSELS, LEADERS
OF THE SOCIALIST PARTIES OF THE EC COUNTRIES, AND SPAIN
AND PORTUGAL ADOPTED A POLITICAL DECLARATION DESIGNED
TO LAY THE FRAMEWORK FOR THE SOCIALISTS' ELECTORAL
CAMPAIGNS FOR THE FIRST DIRECTLY ELECTED EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT (EP). THE DECLARATION EMPHASIZES THE NEED
FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESTRUCTURING TO REDUCE UNEMPLOY-
MENT AND IMPROVE WORKING CONDITIONS; SUPPORTS THE ACCES-
SION OF GREECE, PORTUGAL AND SPAIN TO THE COMMUNITY;
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URGES A MORE PROMINENT EUROPEAN ROLE IN EAST/WEST DETENTE;
CALLS FOR INTENSIFICATION OF EUROPEAN COOPERATION WITH
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES; AND STATES THAT THE DIRECTLY ELECTED
EP MUST DEVELOP WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF EXISTING EC
TREATIES. THE DECLARATION, WHICH IS NOT TO BE CONSTRUED
AS A PARTY PLATFORM OR MANIFESTO, IS AN ATTEMPT TO
PRESENT A UNITED FRONT IN SPITE OF STILL REMAINING

PRAGMATIC DIFFERENCES. AT THE END OF THE CONFERENCE, WHICH WAS HELD BEHIND CLOSED DOORS, NONE OF THE LEADING FIGURES DECLARED HIS CANDIDACY FOR THE EP; GERMAN SOCIAL DEMOCRAT WILLY BRANDT SAID HE WILL DECIDE LATER THIS SUMMER WHETHER TO STAND FOR THE EP. END SUMMARY.

2. ALTHOUGH THE CONFEDERATION OF SOCIALIST PARTIES OF THE EC HAD FIRST SOUGHT IN JUNE 1977 TO AGREE ON A DRAFT MANIFESTO FOR THE FORTHCOMING DIRECT ELECTION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, DIFFERENT NATIONAL INTERESTS AMONG THE INDIVIDUAL PARTIES ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSED DRAFT RESULTED IN ITS BEING STILL-BORN. NEVERTHELESS, IN THE FACE OF PUBLICITY OVER THE SOCIALISTS' INABILITY TO ACHIEVE A UNITED FRONT FOR THE EP ELECTIONS, EFFORTS HAD BEEN UNDERWAY FOR THE PAST YEAR BY THE NATIONAL CONSTITUENT PARTIES OF THE SOCIALIST CONFEDERATION TO REACH A COMMON DENOMINATOR. THESE EFFORTS WERE CAPPED BY AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ON A DRAFT DECLARATION DURING A JUNE 19 MEETING OF SOCIALIST LEADERS IN BRUSSELS (REFTEL) IN PREPARATION FOR THE WIDER GATHERING OF EC SOCIALIST FIGURES HERE JUNE 23-24. DESPITE SOME REPORTED PROBLEMS WITH THAT PORTION OF THE JUNE 19 TEXT RELATING TO THE EC ENLARGEMENT QUESTION, WHICH THE FRENCH SOCIALISTS SUBSEQUENTLY AMENDED SLIGHTLY, THE LEADERS OF THE 15 SOCIALIST PARTIES OF THE EC, SPAIN AND PORTUGAL APPROVED THE POLITICAL DECLARATION, THE SALIENT POINTS OF WHICH FOLLOW IN THE NEXT PARAGRAPH:

3. -- ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL STRUCTURES IN THE EC MEMBER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STATES MUST BE CHANGED IN ORDER TO FREE THE INDIVIDUAL FROM EVERY FORM OF DEPENDENCE AND EXPLOITATION.

-- ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CAN BEST BE ACHIEVED THROUGH A COMMON POLICY OF THE MAIN INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES AND IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH ALL TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS, PARTICULARLY THE ETUC.

-- SOCIALISTS WILL CAMPAIGN FOR INCREASED WORKER RESPONSIBILITY WITHIN THE ENTERPRISE, AND DEMOCRATIC CONTROL OF MAJOR INDUSTRIAL CONCENTRATIONS AND MULTINATIONAL CONCERNS. THEY WILL ALSO ACTIVELY ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES AND OF WORKER-COOPERATIVES.

-- THE SOCIALISTS UNDERTAKE TO STRIVE FOR AN ECONOMIC POLICY AIMED AT ESTABLISHING FULL EMPLOYMENT, ECONOMIC STABILITY, AND A FAIRER DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME AND WEALTH.

-- EUROPE SHOULD LEAD A WORLDWIDE EFFORT TO DEVELOP A POLICY DESIGNED TO MAINTAIN ECOLOGICAL BALANCE AND TO SAVE RAW MATERIALS.

-- THE SOCIALISTS STRONGLY SUPPORT THE ACCESSION OF GREECE, PORTUGAL AND SPAIN TO THE COMMUNITY AND EXPRESS THE VIEW THAT THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL STRUCTURES OF THESE COUNTRIES AND THE PARTICULAR PRODUCTS CONCERNED MAKE IT

NECESSARY TO "HAVE CERTAIN ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADAPTATION AND AN APPROPRIATE TIMETABLE OF TRANSITION PERIODS" (PORTION IN QUOTES IS FRENCH AMENDMENT WHICH WAS APPROVED BY SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE DELEGATIONS TO THE CONFERENCE).

-- EUROPE SHOULD SEE ITSELF AS A FORCE FOR PEACE AND THEREFORE SHOULD CONTRIBUTE MORE EFFECTIVELY TOWARD ACHIEVING DETENTE BETWEEN THE EAST AND THE WEST. EUROPE SHOULD ALSO INTENSIFY ITS COOPERATION WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

-- EC COUNTRIES MUST FULLY IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND SHOULD BE IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE STRUGGLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH-

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OUT THE WORLD.

-- THE DIRECTLY-ELECTED EP MUST INITIALLY DEVELOP WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF EXISTING EC TREATIES, AND ANY TRANSFER OF POWERS FROM NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS CAN ONLY TAKE PLACE WITH THE CLEAR AND DIRECT ASSENT OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND PARLIAMENTS.

4. THE ADOPTION OF THE DECLARATION DID NOT, HOWEVER, REMOVE SOME FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES SEPARATING THE NATIONAL PARTIES WITHIN THE CONFEDERATION. DURING TWO PRESS CONFERENCES, THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFEDERATION OF

SOCIALIST PARTIES,PONTILLON--FRANCE, AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS IN THE HIGH LEVEL MEETING OF SOCIALISTS (E.G., MITTERAND, BRANDT, VAN MIERT--BELGIUM, AND MIKARDO--U.K.) EMPHASIZED THAT THE POLITICAL DECLARATION IS NOT INTENDED TO BE THE SOCIALISTS' PLATFORM FOR THE EP ELECTIONS, BUT RATHER SHOULD BE CONSIDERED SIMPLY A STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES. MOREOVER, THEY POINTED OUT THAT THE INDIVID-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UAL NATIONAL PARTIES, WHILE USING THE DECLARATION AS A BASIS FOR THEIR NATIONAL CAMPAIGNS, WILL BE FREE TO DEVELOP THEIR OWN STRATEGY AND CAMPAIGN PLANK FOR THE EP ELECTIONS. PONTILLON AND OTHERS NOTED THAT DURING THE JUNE 23-24 MEETINGS, THE SOCIALIST LEADERS HAD FOCUSED THEIR ATTENTION ON REINFORCING COOPERATION BETWEEN THE NATIONAL PARTIES AND EXAMINING THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DIFFICULTIES PRESENTLY CONFRONTING THE EC. THEY SAID THEY HAD DISCUSSED THE ORGANIZATION OF THE FORTHCOMING TENTH CONFERENCE OF SOCIALIST PARTIES TO BE HELD IN BRUSSELS IN JANUARY 1979. THAT MEETING, PONTILLON SAID, WILL HAVE BEFORE IT THE STUDIES OF SEVERAL WORKING GROUPS WHICH HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED THE TASK OF RENDERING CONCRETE SOME OF THE POINTS MADE IN THE JUST-ADOPTED POLITICAL DECLARATION, WITH A VIEW TO POSSIBLY DRAWING UP A COMMON SOCIALIST MANIFESTO FOR THE EP ELECTIONS. (COMMENT: HOWEVER, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SOCIALIST GROUP EXPRESSED DOUBTS TO MISSION OFFICER ON WHETHER THERE WILL BE A COMMON MANIFESTO GIVEN THE DIFFERENCES STILL EXISTING BETWEEN THE NATIONAL SOCIALIST PARTIES.)

5. WHILE THE SOCIALIST LEADERS CONFERENCE PRODUCED A POLITICAL DECLARATION, IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT AGREEMENT ON THIS DOCUMENT WAS REACHED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS--PERHAPS BECAUSE THE LEADERSHIP DID NOT WISH DIFFERENCES AMONG THE NATIONAL PARTIES TO BE AIRED PUBLICLY. DURING THE VARIOUS PRESS CONFERENCES, HOWEVER, SEVERAL LEADERS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT DIFFERENCES REMAIN, ALTHOUGH THEY DID TRY TO PRESENT THEM AS BEING OF DEGREE RATHER THAN SUBSTANCE. THUS IT IS STILL FAR FROM CLEAR WHETHER THE SOCIALISTS WILL BE PRESENTING A COMPLETELY UNITED FRONT FOR THE EP ELECTIONS.

6. ANOTHER INTERESTING ASPECT OF THE CONFERENCE IS THAT NONE OF THE SOCIALIST LEADERS FORMALLY DECLARED THEMSELVES FOR AN EP SEAT. ALTHOUGH THIS WAS PERHAPS TO BE EXPECTED, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOME OBSERVERS NEVERTHELESS CONSIDERED IT STARTLING TO HEAR WILLY BRANDT, WHO HAD FIRST SAID HE WOULD BE A

CANDIDATE ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO, STATE THAT HE IS NOT SURE
WHETHER HE WILL ACTUALLY RUN BECAUSE OF RECENTLY ACQUIRED
NEW DUTIES. HE DID SAY, HOWEVER, THAT HE WILL MAKE HIS
FINAL DECISION KNOWN AFTER THE SUMMER VACATION. HINTON

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